

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03

ACDA-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-15

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 /073 R

DRAFTED BY OSD/ISA:RFISS:MEM
APPROVED BY EUR/RPM:HAHOLMES
EUR/RPM:WTROBINSON:EREHFELD
ASD(M AND RA):COL TILSON
ASD/ISA:DCLINARD
ASD(PA):LTC HARDY
EUR/CE:GHUMPHREYS
EUR/NE:CSCHALLER:APINKNEY
PM/ISP:COL.POWERS
EUR/P:WGEHRON

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P R 262304Z APR 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY OSLO
INFO USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM
USCINCEUR
USLO SACLANT NORFOLK VA
USDOCOSOUTH
USAREUR
US ARMY AVIATION SCHOOL FT RUCKER ALA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT:PRESS RELEASE ON EURO NATO HELICOPTER TRAINING

1. FINAL ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING MADE TO START TRAINING HELICOPTER PILOTS FROM NORWAY, GERMANY, DENMARK, AND US AT FT RUCKER ALABAMA IN A JOINT EURO NATO TRAINING PROJECT. THE TRAINING WILL BE CONDUCTED UNDER A NATO CURRICULUM BY A JOINT FACULTY. TEN GERMAN INSTRUCTORS ARE PRESENTLY UNDERGOING INSTRUCTOR PILOT TRAINING AT FT RUCKER.

2. REQUEST ACTION ADDRESSEES SECURE AGREEMENT OF APPROPRIATE DEFENSE OFFICIALS IN OSLO, COPENHAGEN, AND BONN TO SIMULTANEOUS RELEASE OF THE FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE BY THE FOUR COUNTRIES CONCERNED AT 1500Z, TUESDAY, 11 MAY 1976. RECOMMEND YOU CONTACT LTC G. KRISTIANSEN IN HQ DEFENSE COMMAND/AIR - NORWAY, LTC A.V. RASMUSSEN IN CHOD DENMARK, AND LTC H. GRAF IN MOD GERMANY WHO ARE THE POINTS OF CONTACT FOR THIS PROJECT IN THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS.

3. FINAL ARRANGEMENTS ARE DEPENDENT ON AGREEMENT ON SCHEDULING AND COURSE COST. FINAL DETERMINATION OF COST IS SUBJECT TO FURTHER ANALYSIS OF RECENTLY ANNOUNCED COST

GUIDELINES AND POSSIBLE PARTIAL RELIEF THROUGH LEGISLATION EXPECTED TO COME BEFORE CONGRESS FOR VOTE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

4. BEGIN PRESS RELEASE: FOUR NATO NATIONS -- THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, DENMARK, NORWAY AND THE UNITED STATES -- HAVE RECENTLY AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO PARTICIPATE IN A JOINT EURO/NATO BASIC HELICOPTER PILOT TRAINING PROJECT AT THE U.S. ARMY AVIATION SCHOOL, FORT RUCKER, ALABAMA. THE TRAINING WILL BE CONDUCTED UNDER A NATO CURRICULUM DEVELOPED BY THE EURO/NATO TRAINING GROUP TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE PARTICIPATING UNCLASSIFIED

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NATIONS. A JOINT FACULTY WILL BE USED. TEN GERMAN INSTRUCTORS ARE PRESENTLY UNDERGOING INSTRUCTOR PILOT TRAINING AT FORT RUCKER.

THE EURO/NATO TRAINING GROUP, A BODY OF TRAINING SPECIALISTS REPRESENTING THE NATO NATIONS, HAS BEEN STUDYING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT EURO/NATO BASIC HELICOPTER PILOT TRAINING PROJECT FOR SEVERAL YEARS. AT

PRESENT, MOST OF THE NATO NATIONS TRAIN THEIR OWN HELICOPTER PILOTS. SINCE SMALL CLASSES RESULT IN HIGH COSTS PER STUDENT, THE GROUP CONCLUDED THAT SIGNIFICANT SAVINGS COULD BE ACHIEVED AND USED FOR OTHER PRESSING DEFENSE NEEDS, BY SEVERAL NATIONS JOINING IN A COOPERATIVE TRAINING PROJECT. IN ADDITION, JOINT TRAINING MAKES POSSIBLE MORE EFFICIENT USE OF MODERN TRAINING DEVICES, SUCH AS FLIGHT SIMULATORS, AND HELPS TO STRENGTHEN NATO THROUGH ADOPTION OF COMMON TRAINING TECHNIQUES.

ON APRIL 9, 1976, MAJOR GENERAL JUERGEN BRANDT, CHAIRMAN OF THE EURO/NATO TRAINING GROUP, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PARTICIPATING NATO NATIONS VISITED FORT RUCKER FOR AN ORIENTATION AND TOUR OF AVIATION SCHOOL FACILITIES. DURING THE VISIT A MILITARY REVIEW WAS HELD TO RECOGNIZE THE INITIATION OF THE EURO/NATO BASIC HELICOPTER PILOT TRAINING PROJECT. AS PART OF THE CEREMONY, THE NATO FLAG WAS PASSED FROM MAJOR GENERAL BRANDT TO MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM J. MADDOX, JR., COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE ARMY AVIATION SCHOOL TO SYMBOLIZE THE BEGINNING OF THIS COOPERATIVE TRAINING PROJECT.

FINAL ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE JOINT PROJECT ARE NOW BEING WORKED OUT AMONG THE PARTICIPATING NATIONS. IF THESE ARRANGEMENTS ARE COMPLETED AS ANTICIPATED, THE FIRST EUROPEAN STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN MAY TO BEGIN TRAINING. END RELEASE.

5. WE WILL FORWARD TO YOU BY AIR MAIL PICTURES TAKEN AT THE CEREMONY MENTIONED IN THE PRESS RELEASE AS SOON AS THEY ARE RECEIVED FROM FT RUCKER.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ALLIANCE, PERSONNEL TRAINING, TEXT, PRESS RELEASES, HELICOPTERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE100939
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RFISS:MEM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760159-0198
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760421/aaaaarrz.tel
Line Count: 154
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 AUG 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 AUG 2004 by cookms>; APPROVED <13 DEC 2004 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RESS RELEASE ON EURO NATO HELICOPTER TRAINING
TAGS: MPOL, NATO
To: BONN
OSLO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006